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DE RUEHEG #2397/01 3641514
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4598
INFO RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 2000
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 2097
RUEHD/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 1107
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 1246

S E C R E T CAIRO 002397

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/22/2019

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [CASC](#) [ASEC](#) [EG](#)

SUBJECT: STEEL WALL CRITICISM AND GAZA MARCHERS

REF: A. CAIRO 2391

[B.](#) CAIRO 2396

[C.](#) IIR 6 899 0389 09

[D.](#) CAIRO 2325

[E.](#) CAIRO 1150 F. 08 CAIRO 168 G. 08 CAIRO 2502 H. CAIRO 118 I. CAIRO 3498 (2007) Classified By: DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION MATTHEW TUELLER F

1.(C) Key points: -- The Egyptian government continues to come under intense criticism from its domestic opposition, along with regional voices

2.(C) The Egyptians began constructing a subterranean steel wall along the Egypt-Gaza border in early December (ref C). The wall is a \$40 milli

3.(C) On December 10 the Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported the wall was being constructed in response to USG "pressure" on the GOE over smuggl

4.(C) Egyptian MB parliamentary bloc spokesman Hamdy Hassan publicly demanded on Dec 15 that parliamentary leadership obtain an explanation frc

5.(U) Regionally, Hamas leader Khalid Mishal and Hizballah leader Hassan Nasrallah both took swipes at the GOE over the wall. On December 23 Mi

6.(SBU) Members of various pro-Palestinian international organizations, including "Code Pink" (American) arrived in Cairo in late December (ref

7.(SBU) Following media reports that the GOE had halted construction of the steel wall as a result of public criticism, FM Aboul Gheit said on

8.(C) MFA Director for Palestinian Affairs Hisham Seif el Din said on Dec 27 that MFA officials are generally concerned with the security situat

9.(S/NF) Sameh Atta (protect), the advisor to the SYG of the Fawakhria Bedouin Association told poloff December 27 that people in al Arish fear

10.(C) The steel wall carries a political liability that will likely continue to be exploited by some critics and the regime's domestic opposit